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Obtaining a Residency and Work Permit in Seychelles

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to Seychelles legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not cover issues or details specific to a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to Seychelles' government officials. Please note fees are always subject to change.

Obtaining a Residency Permit

A Residence Permit is issued to a person who -

- a) is not a prohibited immigrant;
- b) has a family or domestic connection with Seychelles;
- c) has made or will make special contribution to the economic, social or cultural life of Seychelles.

The holder of a Residence Permit -

- a) Must during the validity of the permit reside in Seychelles for at least five days during Each twelve months of the term of the permit;
- b) If the permit holder resides in Seychelles for more than one month (in any year) he/she shall keep a deposit with a bank in Seychelles or provide a bank guarantee to the Director General of Immigration, of not less than Sr. 20,000/- and allow the Director General of Immigration to draw on the deposit or call on the guarantee for the purpose of meeting expenditure incurred by the government in connection with the care, treatment or maintenance within or removal from Seychelles of the permit holder and his/her dependants;
- c) If the permit holder resides in Seychelles for more than one month (in any year) he/she shall after 14 days of each anniversary of the issue of the permit, adduce evidence to the satisfaction of the Director General of Immigration that the permit holder has brought into Seychelles for his own use, foreign exchange through the Central Bank of Seychelles of an amount equivalent to not less than Sr. 100,000/-;
- d) Paragraph (b) and (c) shall not apply where the Director General of Immigration is satisfied that the permit holder or another person who forms the same household as the permit holder, has sufficient investment in Seychelles to cover the amount in subparagraph (c) or subparagraph (d) and (c) as the case may be;

- e) During the term of the Residence Permit, the holder must explore opportunities for contributing to the economic, social or cultural life of Seychelles;
- f) The holder of the permit shall not be entitled to free medical service in Seychelles or to any social security benefit under the Social Security Act, 1987 or other similar Legislation; The holder of a Residence permit is not permitted to be gainfully occupied in Seychelles.

A Residence Permit shall cease to be valid if the holder:

- a) is in breach of the conditions of the permit;
- b) is convicted of an offence against the Immigration laws; or
- c) is deported from Seychelles.

The holder's minor dependants can be endorsed on the Permit.

There is a fee of US\$115/- for processing the application.

The fee for the residence Permit is Scr. 50,000.00 for the main applicant and Scr. 25,000.00 for the spouse if applied at the same time.

The fee for endorsement of each minor dependant on a Residence Permit is Scr. 1,000.00.

The permit fees are payable in foreign exchange.

Obtaining a Work Permit (Gainful Occupation Permit)

A Gainful Occupation Permit allows the holder to work in Seychelles either for a company or as a self-employed individual.

There is a processing fee of Sr. 600/- for processing of the application and the permit itself costs Sr. 1,500/- per month (or part thereof).

In considering an application for a Gainful Occupation Permit, the followings are taken into account:

- a) the character, reputation and health of the prospective employee and where relevant, any member of his/her household to be endorsed on the permit;
- b) the professional or technical qualification of the person to be employed;
- c) the availability of the services of persons already exist in Seychelles;
- d) the protection of local interest;
- e) the economic and social benefit which the applicant/ prospective employee may bring to Seychelles or enhance by his presence.

Sponsored workers:

In Seychelles, the sponsoring company who will employ you applies for a GOP for you before you enter Seychelles. This procedure should be complete 10 weeks prior to the date you are scheduled to start employment. You must have the GOP prior to entering Seychelles.

Self-employed workers:

If you will be self-employed in your own business, you may apply for the GOP after you have arrived in Seychelles. You may travel to Seychelles and enter on a Visitor's Permit and then apply for the GOP after enter. In order to obtain the GOP through this mechanism, you must first apply for approval by the Seychelles Investment Bureau (SIB). Once approval has been approved, you may open your business and apply for a GOP.

Application Forms and Information

Application forms and information is available at the Immigration office, Independence House, P.O Box 430, Victoria, Mahé Seychelles. All correspondence should be addressed to the Principal Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs at the above address. Fax: (248) 22 50 35, Email: info@immigration.gov.sc

For more information please visit this website:
<http://www.sib.gov.sc/pages/general/FAQ.aspx>